

Only 5 weeks, but a lot of fun (and work!)

As the shortest term in the year, I there will be slightly less than some of the longer terms, but as you can see not that much less to put here.

As I write on Wednesday of week 4, we are over half way through the academic year now—how time flies!

As you know, we try to offer a range of events to enrich your child's learning experience and these few weeks have certainly been no exception. In addition to the ongoing after school clubs, we also strive to keep the curriculum in school lively and entertaining in the ways as described below:

Year 3 (Mrs Hachani's class) have been working with a musician to learn Stomp style drumming and performing, using a variety of everyday objects as percussion instruments to create a show. They are doing brilliantly (but its tough to concentrate in the offices when they are rehearsing!)

The Year 2s had a fantastic trip to St Augustine's Farm in Frampton upon Severn. They were able to interact with all manner of animals. They had a go at stroking them, feeding them, exploring their habitats and how the farm works to look after them. A great day was had by all.

This coming Friday, years 3 and 4 will be going on a trip to Thornbury. During this trip they will compare Patchway to a market town, visiting several places of historical interest

including a castle, the high street, St Mary's Church and the old Police Station. Linked to this, this afternoon Y3s are on a walk around Patchway and Stoke Lodge Area, comparing past and present, identifying key features of the local environment and learning some interesting historical facts about the areas they live in.

Also on Friday afternoon, Key Stage One have a planned visit from Noah's Ark Farm, again linking to their current topic, they will have a chance to meet a few more (and perhaps exotic) animals, ask questions and even handle some.

On the animal theme, year 3s were very excited to be visited by a brood of chicks in the classroom only a last week.

On Monday and Tuesday of the final week, Our Vicar and the Vicar of St Chad's Church will be spending some time to meet with years 5 and 4. During this time, Rev'd Howard Jameson will have created an 'Easter Experience' where groups of children will be able to interact with stations created to explore key points from the Easter Story, to reflect and to ask questions.

For an afternoon next week we have 10x Newly Qualified Teachers from a large school in Bristol joining us. Their Headteacher was looking for a school to show superb practice as part of their development in their first year and we are very honoured that they chose us!

At the very end of last term

Fiona from NSPCC came in one more time to thank the school for the outstanding level of fundraising not far under £2000 was raised (£1884.20). If you look back to the last newsletter, it explains how very valuable this fundraising is and how it directly helps children.

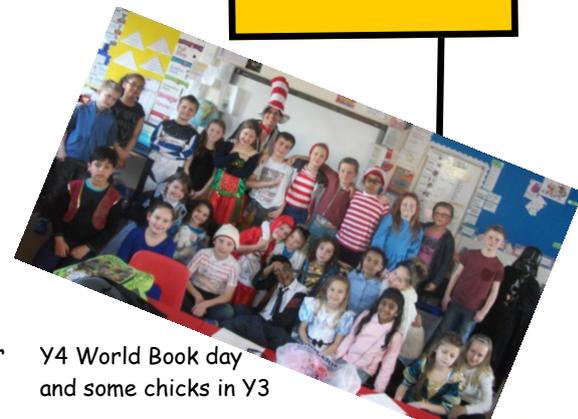
Representatives from Miss Thomas's Year 3 class did the school and themselves proud on the penultimate week of last term, performing in the South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Dance held at Abbeywood School. This is the first time St Chad's have entered a team, and we were the second youngest group there, with the age group ranging from Year 2 all the way to 18 year old A level students.

Our Year 3s danced superbly and wowed the audience with two really well performed pieces. It was a very late night, but well worth it—well done and we hope to see you on 'Strictly' in a few years time.

Only a little bit of room to quickly mention the success of World Book Day, some excellent outfits! And also a fab Red Nose day too!

Also:

- Lost property. We regularly sort lost property and give back to pupils when it is named, but it will be worth having a look yourselves if you are missing any items of clothes. Just ask at the office and they will help you do this.
- If you have any **useable old clothes** that would fit a reception child, we are in need of the kind of things which sometimes get a bit mucky when you are four and five. If you can help, please see the office or the EYFS teachers.



Y4 World Book day and some chicks in Y3



Grant award
We were very lucky to have our application for a grant to create a long standing art project accepted. I am in the process of working with a local artist and a story teller to create something quite exciting. Watch this space for further details.

Sports Corner

Despite being a short term, lots of sporting activities have taken place at St Chad's. 100% of children from Reception to Year 6 have taken part in an intra-school competition against other children/classes within the school.

Competitions have included:

*Reception and Year 1 taking part in obstacle courses/races,

*Year 2 taking part in a Multi-skills event using skills that they had learnt in Games lessons with their teachers and Sports coaches,

*Year 3 and 4 competing in a circuits challenge, involving aiming for targets, shooting, core strength skills, endurance activities and many more,

*Year 5 and 6 competing in a Hula hoop competition.

Results:

Top Year 6 girl hula hooping for 7 minutes 48 seconds – Cherise,

Top Year 6 boy hula hooping for 3 minutes 50 seconds - Kamil,

Top Year 5 girl hula hooping for 6 minutes 40 seconds – Tallulah, Top Year 5 boy hula hooping for 3 minutes 53 seconds - Arvid.

Other highlights during the competition included children using a variety of body parts to 'hula hoop' including using their arm, foot and neck! The children also challenged themselves to use more than one hoop. Some children (Tallulah, Ashlei Tai and Arvid) were able to use their waist to 'hula hoop' with 4 hoops in one go! Amazing!

It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces and children really enjoying physical activi-

ty. These competitions have also involved KS2 children (Y3,4 and 6) taking on leadership responsibilities and scoring as part of the competition.

In class, we have been continuing to develop our cross curricular sporting opportunities. On World Book Day, some children took part in Dance sessions linked to the book 'Peter Pan' and other children practised their circus skills linked to the book 'Leon and the place between'. Reception children took part in Chinese new year races linked to the Chinese Zodiac story, while Year 2 have linked their gymnastics routines to their Maths data handling work and year 5/6 have been choreographing dance routines linked to their Natural Disasters topic. We have continued to develop our community links with Thornbury Golf Centre. Year 5/6 received golf coaching from Jason at Thornbury Golf Centre at the beginning of term, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Thornbury Golf Centre has a family open day on Saturday 28th March 2015 - 10.00-2.00pm that you may wish to attend. The day will include: FREE coaching from PGA professionals, a chance to win a FREE 12 month membership, Games & events - the change to win prizes and FREE use of the equipment and range balls. For more information call 01454 281144 (option1).

As a school, we have joined the Sainsbury's School Games Mark (www.yourschoolgames.com). The School Games Mark rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community via club links. By joining this, we are able to work towards bronze, silver and gold levels of the Mark. To gain any level, all

Congratulations Miss Thomas
You may remember that Miss Thomas is an avid dancer. She was asked to be a judge in a recent inter University dance competition, 'Varsity' between UWE and UoB. It is a great honour in the dance community to be asked to judge, and so a huge congratulations to Miss Thomas.

are re-quired to meet a set criteria, which includes raising numbers of children who compete in Sport, attend after school clubs and take part in leadership of sporting activities. This is an exciting opportunity for the school on our journey to continually raising sporting standards and outcomes for children. The children have been enjoying more active lunchtimes through the provision of fun and exciting structured play/sport delivered by our new lunchbreak supervisor, Chris. The Year 6 Sports leaders are also continuing to provide Sports clubs at lunchtime. We have made links with local school Little Stoke Primary and look forward to taking part in a range of inter-school sporting competitions, which will enable all children in the school from Reception to Year 6 to take part during the Summer term. More details in the next newsletter.

We have a whole range of sports clubs running after school at St Chad's including: gymnastics, football, dodgeball, invasion games, tag rugby and athletics. We have at least one club a night. Sports Heroes club has started for KS1 children. Children have already started receiving certificates in assembly for demonstration of brilliant sporting skills. If you would like to join any clubs, please see the office for more details.

Attendance For more detailed information, please see term one's newsletter (on line, see new website or from the office). You all know we are aiming to be above 97% and currently we are 96.5%. As you can see below, it only takes a few to be off for this to drop.

Thank you all for working hard to support the attendance in school. We know that chicken pox hit us hard across the school last term and some of this, but we are on the mend now, and still we didn't drop below national averages for the year, so well done. I have to remind you in each newsletter about the fact that holidays will not be authorised and extended unauthorised absence leaves you open to the possibility of a fine, please see previous newsletters to find more details. I don't want to dwell on this as the vast majority of pupils in school have a superb attendance record. Please see the table for the attendance over the previous months:

Class	Sep t %	Oct t %	Nov t %	Dec t %	Jan t %	February % Attend
Rec	99	98	97	93	98	90.3
1	97	98	98	94	98	<u>97.6</u>
2R	99	98	99	92	98	<u>96.6</u>
2L	98	96	97	92	97	<u>96.2</u>
3R	97	97	96	96	98	<u>97.0</u>
3L	96	96	98	90	97	94.3
4	95	95	95	95	98	<u>97.2</u>
5	95	98	95	98	98	<u>96.7</u>
6	97	97	95	95	96	<u>98.5</u>
Total	97	97	97	94	97	96.0

Recruitment of Bikeability Cycle Trainers

South Gloucestershire Council Road Safety Team are seeking to recruit trainee or qualified Bikeability cycle trainers on zero hour contracts, to help increase the number of children and adults to cycle safely. You will be a confident cyclist and happy to work in all weathers. Ideally you will have some experience of working with children and have an outgoing personality. You will be able to work with the minimum of supervision and be highly motivated. If you do not already hold a qualification to deliver Bikeability at all three levels we will sponsor your training over four days within South Gloucestershire or Bristol. You will be paid an hourly rate of £7.88 plus mileage or cycle allowance. Uniform and equipment will be provided but you will provide your own bicycle and cycle helmet which must be worn. You will join a highly successful team that is in the vanguard of Bikeability training nationally. This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Check. For an informal discussion about the role please ring Lead Road Safety Officer Pam Williams on 01454 863606 or email me pamela.williams@southglos.gov.uk Closing date 27/3/15.

Dates for your diary

Some quotes from INSET day.

March	
Monday 23 rd and Tuesday 24 th March	Easter Experience, years 4 and 5
Friday 27 th March	3.30 p.m. School closes for the Easter break
April	
Monday 13 th April	9.00 a.m. School re-opens - Term starts
May	
Monday 4 th May	May Day Bank holiday - School closed
W/comm Monday 11th May	Y6 SAT's and whole school Assessment week
Wednesday 19 th May	Y6 Camp meeting - parents only
Wednesday 20 th May	Dog awareness (not a real dog) years Y4 and 5 PM.
Friday 22 nd May	3.30 p.m. School closes for the half-term break
June	
1 st June	9.00 a.m. School re-opens - Term starts
w/comm Monday 8 th June	Green Week
w/co Monday 15 th June	Y1 Phonics testing
Wednesday 17 th - Friday 19 th June	Y6 Residential visit
w/co Monday 22 nd June	Sports Week TBC
Wednesday 24 th June	Area Sports 6 - 7 p.m. TBC
Friday 26 th June	1.30 p.m. Sports Day
Tuesday 30 th June	1.30 p.m. Sports afternoon (b/fwd from 26/06 if inclement weather)
July	
Wednesday 1 st July	6.00 p.m. Reception 2015 Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th July	Y6 transition day and whole school move up day.
Friday 10 th July	INSET Day - school closed for pupils.
Tuesday 14 th and Wednesday 15 th July	Leavers' Productions 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 16 th July	EYFS concert to parents 9.15
Thursday 16 th July	Parents evening / open classroom, view work & collect Reports 3.45 to 6 p.m.
Thursday 16 th July	EYFS walk to park 1.15. TBC
Friday 17 th July	1.30 p.m. Leavers' Assembly.
Friday 17 th July	3.30 p.m. School closes for the summer.
Monday 20 th July	INSET - school closed.

For those of you who don't know, the most recent inset day was a time for reflection on the schools Vision, Aims and Values.

As part of this day, we asked pupils their opinions on school. Below are some of their responses. We will add them (and others) to the website in due course. Please note these were all from the pupils with no prompting and not edited:

What is great about school?

When a teacher helps you when you are stuck or struggling.

Make new friends and learn together.

Getting into challenge.

They teach you things you didn't know before and the teachers explain if you get confused. Pupils (including teachers), maths.

That everyone takes care of others and that it's always fun. Going on the field and school dinners. I love school dinners.

We learn together and accessing a good friendship can help us through life.

Everyone is nice to you.

Teachers make learning fun.



Above, Y5 golf and below a happy goat on the Y2 trip.

Star of the week

The star of the week award is given to a pupil who has 'lived' the value we are currently learning about. They need to be nominated by a friend or peer and once a week to a pupil who has displayed such behaviour is chosen to be the recipient of the award. There are growing numbers of nominations and we now have many more than we can discuss in an assembly. Instead, I always ask the pupils to let the person know they were being nominated because we think even the

simple act of knowing someone has recognised your efforts is very worth while. Since the last Newsletter, we have had the theme "Generosity" (See previous newsletter online for more information). This is only week four of this term and we haven't had this week's assembly yet. However the winners of this term so far have been: Ellie May (Y4) for generously holding open doors for other and always helping without being asked. Harvey Sargent (Y6) for lending his property to others in his class and even at times in other clas-

ses. And Nathalie Wong (Y3) for being generous with her time and supporting others.

Really well done to the winning pupils and everyone nominated.



Meet the staff

Helen Parsons

Hello! I am the new teacher in Tiger Class and St. Chad's new Key Stage One leader. I feel very lucky to have joined such a warm and welcoming school and to have the privilege of teaching such lovely children!

I trained to become a teacher at Nottingham Trent University and worked in Nottingham after I graduated for 2 years. Throughout university I had always planned to take a 'gap' year (I had just never had enough money!) So after two years teaching Year 3 I decided it was finally time to spread my wings and see the world.

I signed up to a volunteer programme in Cambodia and worked in Siem Reap for 4 months as a voluntary TEFL teacher. I taught children from 5 – 15 years old and lived with a host family, as well as other volunteers during this time. I can say, hands down, that it was the best experience of my life! Cambodia is the most friendly, welcoming and smiley country I have ever been to, which is even more amazing considering its past.

After Cambodia I took some time to travel around Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. I'm not sure I could pin-point just one highlight from this trip, but an unforgettable experience was seeing the sunrise over the Mekong River, as the Monks bowed on the banks to pray. It was just beautiful.

Before moving to St. Chad's I worked as a Year 2 teacher in Easton.

In my spare time I really enjoy camping, watching live music and catching up with friends. I have recently acquired two beautiful, little ragdoll kittens so I also spend a lot of my time waiting on them hand and foot!

I have really enjoyed my time at St. Chad's so far and look forward to getting to know more and more of you over the coming months and years.



Our term 4's assembly theme at home—Respect

It is really lovely when children and parents share the things you do at home and thank you to all of you who discussed how you had followed up the Assembly theme there were some really interesting ways you did this.

Next term (April onwards) we shall be learning about Respect. On the surface, this one seems a bit tough, but really this will be all about the importance of treating others with respect even if we sometimes don't agree with them. We will also look at how we should treat things / objects that belong to us and to others respectfully.

Some things you could do at home to further explore this are: think about some practical ways you show respect in your family to each other. Think about the phrase '**Respect, to get it, you must give it**' (Anon). You might want to look at the world around us—do we respect it? Do others? You could conduct a survey of the local area looking at perhaps litter, dog mess, graffiti and then write to the local council noting what you observed. You could draw a picture of someone or something you respect and frame it with reasons why.

Religious communities often treat their holy books with great respect. Christians believe the Bible is the word of God and show respect by treating it carefully. In some Churches, Bibles have a special stand to hold it called a lectern. Orthodox Jewish men wear a kippah to cover their heads as a sign of respect towards God. The Torah scrolls are kept in a closed cabinet called an ark and a pointer called a yad is used when reading it so no human hands will touch it. Muslims keep their holy book the Qu'ran covered and in a clean place not on the floor, nor with anything on top of it. To show respect, they only handle the book with clean or gloved hands. Sikhs cover their heads and remove their shoes before going into a room housing their holy book the Guru Granth Sahib. To show respect, nobody sits higher than the Guru Granth Sahib and no alcohol is ever taken into that room.



If your child does something linked to the school theme for assemblies, please cut off and send in this form explaining what it was they did and we will be sure to celebrate it in school. Last term the theme was Humility and this coming term will be Generosity

Child's name _____ Class _____ Date _____

What theme was shown out of school _____ Signed _____

How the theme was shown _____
